

## **REMARKS**

In the February 25, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-52 are pending and were variously rejected under 35 USC §102(b) and 35 USC §103(a), and there was an objection to the informality of the drawings.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

A typographical error has been corrected as indicated for the first line of the third paragraph on page 8 of the original specification. No new matter has been added.

## **OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Formalized drawings for FIGURES 1-5 are attached to this Response as required by the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

## **SECTION 102(B) REJECTIONS**

Claims 1-21 were rejected under to 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Dougherty (US Patent Number 5,539,624). Without conceding that original Claims 1-21 were not patentable, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been Currently Amended to more particularly point out the patentable features of the present invention not taught nor suggested by Dougherty. Dougherty does not teach nor suggest the excitation of conduit light sources to emit light by receiving vehicles, including receiver aircraft. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-21 as Currently Amended.

Claims 22-23, 26, 29, 30, 33, 36, 47, 48, and 52 were rejected under to 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Strasser et al. (US Patent Number 6,257,750). Without conceding that these claims were not patentable, claims 23-25, 30-32, 39-41, and 48-50 have been Currently Amended to more particularly point out the patentable features of the present invention not taught nor suggested by Strasser. Independent claims 22, 29, 38, and 47 remain in original form in that Strasser does not teach nor suggest a luminescent outer layer being integrally formed with the conduit wall and disposed on an outer surface to outwardly emit light. Instead, Strasser requires that external fiber optic cables be helically wound around a hose or

internally concealed until exposed at end of the hose. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-52 as Currently Amended.

#### **SECTION 103(A) REJECTIONS**

Claims 22-52 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being obvious with regards to Dougherty (US Patent Number 5,539,624) in view of Strasser et al. (US Patent Number 6,257,750) and Newman (US Patent Number 4,633,376). Without conceding that original claims 22-52 were not patentable, dependent claims 23-25, 30-32, 39-41, and 48-50 have been Currently Amended to more particularly point out the patentable features of the present invention neither taught nor suggested by Dougherty, Strasser, and Newman. Independent claims 22, 29, 38, and 47 remain in original form in that neither of these references teach, nor suggest, nor motivate when combined, a luminescent outer layer being integrally formed with the conduit wall and disposed on an outer surface to outwardly emit light. Dougherty requires optical fibers affixed to hoses and segmented, Strasser requires that external fiber optic cables be helically wound around a hose or internally concealed until exposed at end of the hose, and Newman requires receiver aircraft to be illuminated for tanker-to-receiver aircraft hose positioning. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-52 as Currently Amended.





### CONCLUSION

Applicants request consideration and allowance of pending claims 1-52. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the applicant's agent below.

Respectfully submitted,

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### MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to:, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 25, 2004  
Date of Deposit

Sandra K. Duncan  
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